



Saint Peter's Episcopal Church

S.B. No. 383 (RAISED) AN ACT INCREASING THE APPLICABLE
PERCENTAGE OF THE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT.
H.B. No. 5403 (RAISED) AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CHILD TAX CREDIT
AGAINST THE PERSONAL INCOME TAX.

Dear Distinguished Members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee,

I am writing today in support of S.B. No. 383 and H.B. No. 5403 on establishing a child tax credit in Connecticut. I do so as a pastor of a small Episcopal congregation in Hebron, CT.

Hebron and the surrounding towns are small suburban and rural communities. As such the challenges and needs of families are often less visible than in larger more urban settings. As such families in need or facing challenges are often hidden in plain sight. Where their challenges do become apparent often present themselves in the school setting. During the pandemic when schools were closed often the concerns of these families moved still deeper into the shadows right in our midst. The stress on working and middle-class families during the pandemic only magnified problems already present in the community.

As a pastor rather than speak directly to the statistics others will provide in their testimony, I want to highlight two areas in our community that provide evidence of the silent suffering many working families experience. The first is at our food pantry that provides essential services to clients. In our town of Hebron pre-pandemic our pantry served on average 70 families a week. During the pandemic and continuing still that number doubled to some 140. Most notably these increases are among households with children and households of senior citizens. Secondly, our local Family and Youth Services agency that serves Hebron, Andover, Marlborough and Columbia has seen a dramatic increase in the need for outpatient mental health therapy. In addition, they report that they have seen an increase in requests and services at all of the area schools they serve in our local towns.

These pressures on families to not only find available services but resources to obtain services for their children particularly for mental health provide real on the ground challenges to families in our area. The establishment of a child tax credit provides working- and middle-class families with one more resource and tool in their toolkit to address the immediate and long-term needs of their children. I strongly support the creation of this credit that will help working class and middle-class families in our state.

Respectfully submitted,
The Reverend Ronald J. Kolanowski
Rector, St. Peter's Episcopal Church

P. O. Box 513, Hebron CT 06248

Phone: 860-228-3244 Fax: 860-228-4490 Email: office@stpetershebron.com

www.stpetershebron.com